



President Zardari commends security forces for eliminating FAK's terrorists in KP



Three petrol shipments expected today: Petroleum Minister



Citizens praise CM Punjab for bringing festive Ramadan decorations to major cities

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Monday 09 March 2026 Ramazan 19, 1447 A.H VOI No: 06 Issue No. 38 Pages 4 Rs. 20

PM, President praise women's role in national development on International Day of Women

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: International Women's Day observed across Pakistan and around the world on Sunday, with leaders and citizens highlighting the vital role women play in society.

On International Day of Women President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif paid tribute to Pakistani women, emphasizing that no nation can achieve meaningful progress without the active participation of women in all spheres of life.

This year Women's Day is being marked under the theme "Rights, Equality and Action: For All Women and Girls," reflecting the global commitment to protecting women's rights and ensuring equal opportuni-

ties. In his message, President Asif Ali Zardari said that women have played a crucial role in Pakistan's development and progress. He recalled that the founder of Pakistan, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, had emphasized the importance of women's equal participation in national life.

The president also highlighted the leadership of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto as a shining example of the determination and strength of Pakistani women. He said the contributions and struggles of Fatima Jinnah and Nusrat Bhutto continue to inspire women across the country.

President Zardari noted that women are serving the nation in every field, from aviation cockpits to parliamentary halls.



LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday visited the residence of senior politician and former provincial minister, the late Zaem Qadri, and expressed his condolences to the bereaved family.

13 militants killed in intelligence-based operations across KP: ISPR

PEAK POINT



RAWALPINDI: At least 13 militants were killed in five separate clashes with Pakistani security forces in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, according to Inter-Services Public

Relations (ISPR).

The ISPR said the security forces carried out a series of intelligence-based operations as part of an ongoing counterterrorism campaign targeting militants linked to the "Fitna al-Khawarij".

During an intelligence-based operation in Bajaur District, security forces effectively targeted a militant hideout. Following an intense exchange of fire, five militants were killed.

In two additional encounters in the districts of Bannu District and Dera Ismail Khan District, security forces killed three more militants belonging to the same group. Meanwhile, in two separate clashes in Khyber District and South Waziristan District, five additional militants were neutralized. According to the military's statement, a large cache of weapons and ammunition was also recovered from the killed militants.

Pakistan to continue highlighting rights violations in Indian-occupied Kashmir: FO

PEAK POINT

Pakistan will continue to inform the international community about ongoing human rights violations in Indian-administered Kashmir.

It was stated by Foreign Office Spokesperson Tahir Andrabi on Sunday.

Speaking at a seminar held in Islamabad to mark International Women's Day, Andrabi said that women often become silent victims in the face of oppression and that their suffering in cases of human rights violations is often greater than that of men.

He added that Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has worked to ensure that women's rights continue to be highlighted in



reports issued by the United Nations.

He noted that UN human rights observers have repeatedly released reports regarding the situation in Indian-administered Kashmir.

The spokesperson said that many incidents, including the brutality reported in Kunan Poshpora, have never been properly investi-

gated.

He claimed that those responsible for the Kunan Poshpora incident remain free in India and that women's rights have been violated in Indian-administered Kashmir. Andrabi stated that if accountability had been ensured, women in the region would not still be facing such abuses.

He said that the violations of women's rights continue, while Kashmiri Hurriyat leaders who struggled for the region's freedom are enduring imprisonment.

He further said that the Foreign Office has informed the global community about the situation in Indian-administered Kashmir, adding.

PM visits residence of late Zaem Qadri, offers condolences

PEAK POINT

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday visited the residence of senior politician and former provincial minister, the late Zaem Qadri, and expressed his condolences to the bereaved family. The prime minister offered prayers for the elevation of the departed soul's ranks and for patience and strength for the family members during this difficult time. Speaking on the occasion, he said that the services of the late Zaem Qadri for democracy will always be remembered.

Women assured timely rights, justice, action by UN worldwide

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: International Women's Day is being observed on Sunday enthusiastically and with great zeal and vigour across the globe, including Pakistan.

The Women's day theme is "Give To Gain" and its continuation with "Rights, Justice, Action. For ALL women and girls" (#ForAllWomenAndGirls). This year's theme affirmed women's rights, liberty, empowerment, and strength, and prepared them for active participation in the country's development and progress.

Trump rejects settling Iran war, raises prospect of killing all its potential leaders

PEAK POINT

WASHINGTON: U.S. President Donald Trump said he is not interested in negotiating with Iran and raised the possibility that the Iran war would only end once Tehran no longer has a functioning military or any remaining leadership in power.

Speaking to reporters aboard Air Force One on Saturday, Trump said the air campaign could make negotiations a moot point if all potential leaders of Iran are killed and the Iranian military is destroyed.

"At some point, I don't think there will be anybody left maybe to say 'We surrender,'" Trump said. Israel and Iran traded numerous attacks on Saturday as the U.S.-Israeli war against Iran entered a second week. Iran's president apologized

to neighboring states for its attacks on U.S. facilities in He dismissed Trump's demand for the Islamic



those countries, in an attempt to cool anger across the Gulf, but stirred criticism from hardliners at home.

"I personally apologize to neighboring countries that were affected by Iran's actions," Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said, urging them not to join U.S.-Israeli attacks on Iran.

Netanyahu, in a televised address, said any members of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps who laid down their arms would be unharmed.

Ali Larjani, Iran's secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, said on state television there was no rift among Iranian officials over its handling of the war.

In Oslo, the U.S. embassy was hit by an explosion early on Sunday, causing minor damage but no injuries, Norwegian police said. Smoke was seen rising from the area around the embassy compound, eyewitnesses told Norwegian daily Verdens Gang. It was not immediately clear what caused the blast or who was involved. The U.S. State Department did not immediately.

Huge flames in Tehran after Israeli strikes on oil refineries



PEAK POINT

TEHRAN: The Israeli military struck several Iranian fuel sites late on Saturday, sending huge balls of fire and smoke into the air and rocking Tehran and the neighboring city of Karaj with explosions. The attacks, seen in videos circulating on social media and verified by The New York Times, appeared to be the first on Iran's energy infrastructure since the United States and Israel launched strikes on Iran last weekend. Until this weekend, the U.S.-Israeli bombing campaign had been largely focused on ravaging Iran's leadership and security services, and police stations, while also trying to eliminate its ability to produce and launch missiles and prevent Tehran from being able to produce.



SPORTS



India crush New Zealand to win third T20 World Cup title



PEAK POINT
AHMEDABAD: The co-hosts India defeated New Zealand by 96 runs in a high-yielding T20 World Cup final at Ahmedabad on Sunday, retaining the title of world champions.

Chasing the gigantic total of 256 runs, the Black Caps bumbled up at 159 with an over left.

Indian pacer Jasprit Bumrah overpowered New Zealand batters as he grabbed four wickets, while Axar Patel took three.

Sanju Samson's blistering 89 off 46 balls helped India rack up a massive 255-5 against New Zealand in the T20 World Cup

final in Ahmedabad on Sunday. The in-form Samson, who hit 97 not out and 89 in his previous two innings, hit five fours and eight sixes to thrill a crowd of over 100,000 at the Narendra Modi Stadium.

India are looking to become the first team to retain the trophy, the first to win it on home soil and the first to claim a third world T20 crown.

Samson's opening stand of 98 with Abhishek Sharma, who hit 52 off 21 balls, laid the platform for the second-highest total of this edition as India surpassed their 256 against Zimbabwe in the

Super Eights. Put in to bat first, Abhishek waited for an over before he launched a batting blitz, and Samson joined in to flay the opposition attack to all parts of the ground.

India raced to 92 in the first six overs of powerplay when only two fielders are allowed outside the inner circle.

Rachin Ravindra broke the stand with his left-arm spin to send back Abhishek caught behind after the opener reached his second fifty of the tournament. Samson was joined by Ishan

Kishan, who made 54, and the two once again demolished New Zealand's bowling.

Samson reached his third successive fifty and changed gears to hit Ravindra for three straight sixes.

Jimmy Neesham pulled things back for New Zealand with three wickets in one over. He removed Samson, Kishan and skipper Suryakumar Yadav for a duck — the last two on successive balls.

But Shivam Dube finished with a flourish, blasting an unbeaten 26 off eight balls as he hit Neesham for three fours and two sixes in the 20th over.

ICC postpones key meeting in Doha amid rising Middle East tensions



PEAK POINT
DOHA: The International Cricket Council (ICC) has postponed an important meeting scheduled to take place in Doha later this month due to the escalating tensions in the Middle East.

According to a report by an Indian cricket website, the ICC meeting was originally planned to be held from March 25 to 27 in Doha, the capital of Qatar. However, the current security situation in the region prompted officials to delay the gathering.

The meeting was expected to bring together representatives from ICC member countries to discuss several key matters related to international cricket, including administrative and strategic issues.

Sources said that due to the prevailing tensions across parts of the Middle East, the ICC decided it would be safer to postpone the event rather than proceed as originally scheduled.

According to the report, the meeting is now likely to take place in April, although the cricket governing body has not yet announced a new date.

Pakistan's first woman Olympics volunteer Rabia Qadir recognizes CM Punjab's commitment to women empowerment



PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: Former national women's hockey player and Pakistan's first woman Olympics volunteer Rabia Qadir Sunday praised the Punjab government's initiatives for women's empowerment, saying on Women's Day, she International women's said Punjab is wit-

nessing a positive transformation the Senior Minister through policies designed to create a Minister for supportive and Information for women who are successfully managing critical responsibilities.

Women in Punjab are now being empowered to take bold strides forward and actively shape the future across diverse sectors of society.

Rabia Qadir noted that the growing participation of women is essential not only for social sports, education and uplift but also for the professional progress and overall prosperity of the country. Rabia Qadir thanked the Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz for organizing the Khelta Punjab Pink Games, saying that the participation of more than 3,400 female athletes reflects the growing interest of women in sports.



LAHORE: A view of final day of Punjab Open Chess Championship here in Nishtar Park Sports Complex on Sunday.

Eight Pakistani officials named to ITF, ATF committees

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan tennis received a significant boost on the international stage as eight Pakistani officials have been appointed to various prestigious committees of the International Tennis Federation (ITF) and the Asian Tennis Federation (ATF) for the 2026-27 term. The appointments reflect growing recognition of Pakistan's contribution to the development and promotion of tennis at both regional and global levels, according to a press release issued by the Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF) on Saturday.

Pakistan's Davis Cup star and PTF President Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi has been named to the ITF Athlete Commission, where he will serve alongside renowned former international players including Mary Pierce (France), Mark Woodforde (Australia), Iva Majoli (Croatia), Arantxa Sánchez Vicario (Spain), Feliciano López (Spain) and Mollie

Levy (United States). Former national player Sara Mansoor has been appointed to the ITF Coaches Commission, while Syed Muhammad Ali Muraza will serve on the ITF Junior Committee. At the Asian level, several Pakistani representatives have secured key Committee, while veteran tennis player Rashid Malik will serve on the Marketing & Sponsorship Committee. Similarly, Shahzad Akhtar Alvi has been included in the Tournament Officiating Committee, Sara Mansoor will also serve on the Advantage All Committee.



roles in different committees of the Asian Tennis Federation (ATF). PTF Patron Senator Salim Saifullah Khan has been included in the Finance Committee, Development Advisor Group, and the Legal, Constitution & Ethics Committee of the ATF. PTF Secretary General Col. Zia-ud-Din Tufail (R) has been appointed to the Junior & Coaches Development and Muhammad Khalid Rehmani has been named to the Senior, Wheelchair & Beach Tennis Committee. Senator Salim Saifullah Khan, in a statement said the appointments highlighted the trust and confidence international tennis bodies had placed in Pakistani officials to contribute to the governance and development of the sport worldwide.

Lahore Whites and Karachi Whites Win on Opening Day of ABS Developers National T20 Cup

PEAK POINT
PESHAWAR: The ABS Developers National T20 Cup commenced at the Imran Khan Cricket Stadium in Peshawar, where Lahore Region Whites and Karachi Region Whites secured victories in their respective matches on the opening day of the tournament on Saturday.

In the first match, Lahore Region Whites defeated Peshawar Region by six wickets. After winning the toss, Peshawar opted to bat first and scored 167 runs for

the loss of nine wickets in 20 overs. Opener Yasir Khan played a fine innings, scoring a half-century.

For Lahore Whites, captain Aamir Jamal claimed three wickets, while leg-spinner Mohammad Rameez Jr picked up two wickets. Naseem Shah and Ubaid Shah took one wicket each.

In reply, Lahore Whites chased down the target in 17 overs for the loss of four wickets. Farhan Yousaf was named Player of the Match after scoring an unbeaten 61 runs off 31 balls, hitting five

fours and four sixes. Opening batsman Mohammad Akhlaq also played an impressive knock of 58 runs off 46 balls, including eight fours and one six. In the second match, Karachi Region Whites defeated Faisalabad Region by eight wickets. Batting first, Faisalabad recovered from 57 for 4 to post 171 runs for the loss of seven wickets in 20 overs. Mohammad Owais Zafar played a brilliant innings, scoring an unbeaten 81 runs off 53 balls, including six fours and three sixes.



Rs 16.8 Billion HEC Laptop Scheme procures 100,000 devices as 501,705 degrees verified in two years, NA Told

NADEEM TANOLI
ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly was informed that the Higher Education Commission procured 100,000 laptops worth Rs 16.801 billion under the Prime Minister's Youth Laptop Scheme Phase-IV, while also processing over 500,000 degree verification applications in two years and awarding 4,868 scholarships to students from Balochistan, according to official replies presented during the question answer session. Responding to questions in the National Assembly, Federal Minister for Education Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui confirmed that the laptop procurement project was approved by ECNEC on December 11, 2023, with a total capital cost

of Rs 16,801.230 million, including foreign exchange component of Rs 15,166.250 million. The procurement of 100,000 laptops was carried out by the Higher Education Commission under the Prime Minister's Laptop Scheme Phase-IV through an open bidding process announced by HEC at its headquarters in Sector H 9 Islamabad. The Assembly was informed that HEC issued formal tender invitations for procurement, followed by corrigendums published on HEC and PPRA websites, while the project oversight was assigned to a Project Steering Committee chaired by the Executive Director HEC and a Technical Committee chaired by Prof. Dr. Jamil Ahmed, Member IT HEC, to supervise execution of the pro-

ject. In another disclosure, the government said the Higher Education Commission awarded 4,868 scholarships to students from Balochistan during the last five years. These included 4,412 undergraduate scholarships (4,379 local and 33 foreign), 268 MS/MPhil/LLM scholarships (236 local and 32 foreign), 178 PhD scholarships (114 local and 64 foreign) and 10 post doctoral fellowships abroad, bringing the total number of beneficiaries from the province to 4,868 students. The National Assembly was also briefed on HEC's degree verification and attestation services. According to the official data, the commission processed 259,300 degree attestation applications in 2024 and 242,405 in 2025, with applications sub-

mitted through the HEC online portal. Under the current policy, urgent walk in applications are processed within 24 hours, while courier applications are completed within three to five working days. The Assembly was told that the attestation fee is Rs 1,000 for each original document and Rs 700 for each photocopy, and the ministry confirmed that there is currently no backlog in degree verification cases. Regarding academic reforms, the minister informed the House that the Higher Education Commission revised curricula of 36 academic disciplines covering more than 200 university degree programmes during 2024-25 to align higher education with international standards, emerging technologies and

labour market needs. The Assembly was further informed that universities in Pakistan remain autonomous institutions and are not legally bound to share admission data with HEC. However, the commission collects national higher education statistics through its Higher Education Data Repository (HEDR) which compiles enrolment and graduation data from public and private universities. Officials also highlighted the launch of "Maktab," a digital platform developed by HEC in collaboration with the World Bank, aimed at digitizing core academic operations of public sector universities and enabling institutions to share integrated data on student admissions, enrollment, academic

progress and graduation through centralized dashboards. Clarifying the issue of university fees, the government told the National Assembly that HEC does not fix tuition fees for universities. However, under Clause 5(2) of the Federal Universities Ordinance 2002, federally chartered universities cannot increase fees by more than 10 percent annually unless special approval is granted by the Chancellor. Universities are required to report fee structures to their governing bodies and seek approval for any increase beyond the prescribed limit, while HEC monitors compliance through audits and quality assurance mechanisms.

Media honors leadership legacy of Pakistani women from Fatima Jinnah to present

PEAK POINT
ISLAMABAD: Digital media platforms and apps carried widespread tributes to Pakistani women as working women's groups shared messages of solidarity, honored mothers and recognized the leadership legacy from Fatima Jinnah to the women shaping Pakistan today. On International women's day, local media channels and other digital platforms paid tribute to Pakistani women, highlighting

their achievements and leadership. Working women's groups shared messages of encouragement, honored mothers and recognized leaders from Fatima Jinnah to today's trailblazers, celebrating their role in shaping society and inspiring future generations. Media coverage underscored women's role in every sphere of life, from homes and workplaces to national development, marking the day with

nationwide appreciation. Prominent women leaders also voiced their support for empowerment and inclusion. Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunications, Shazia Fatima Khawaja, emphasized the importance of expanding digital opportunities and safe online spaces to help women lead and innovate in the digital age. Additionally, senior PPP leader Sharmila Farooqi

praised the courage and contributions of Pakistani women, stressing that empowering women is essential for national progress and social justice. Senator Sherry Rehman described International Women's day as a moment for reflection, urging that the contributions and often unseen struggles of women especially in conflict zones must be acknowledged and addressed with concrete action. She emphasized

that women's economic, social and legal inclusion is essential for Pakistan's progress and paid homage to trailblazers like Fatima Jinnah, Benazir Bhutto, Asifa Bhutto and other leaders whose courage continues to inspire generations. Women leaders such as Azma Bukhari and Maryam Aurangzeb Punjab ministers also paid homage to figures like CM Punjab Maryam Nawaz and others, highlighting their courage, lead-

ership and ongoing efforts to inspire and empower future generations. On the other side, social media accounts of working women were ablaze with messages of celebration, encouragement and solidarity. Colleagues flooded timelines with heartfelt wishes, uplifting notes and powerful tributes, turning feeds into a vibrant tapestry of women supporting women honoring their strength, resilience.

Opinion & Editorial

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Women's Day

It is a simple truth: societies progress when women are able to shape them. Yet the struggle for equality has never been linear, and the distance between aspiration and reality remains vast. In Pakistan, as elsewhere, International Women's Day is, therefore, both a moment of recognition and a reminder of the work unfinished. Pakistan has enacted several laws designed to protect women and promote gender equality: legislation addressing workplace harassment, steps towards raising the legal age of marriage, legal frameworks against domestic violence, etc. These measures reflect the tireless efforts of activists, civil society and policymakers. Yet laws alone cannot transform society; they must be enforced. According to a recent report by the Sustainable Social Development Organisation, more than 32,500 cases of gender-based violence were reported in 2024 alone. These included over 5,000 cases of rape, 24,000 instances of abduction, 2,000 incidents of domestic violence and nearly 550 so-called honour killings. More troubling is the dismal conviction rate — just 0.5pc for rape and honour killing, 0.1pc for abduction and 1.3pc for domestic violence. Weak police investigations, lack of forensic evidence, social stigma fears and judicial delays deny survivors the justice they deserve. Economic participation tells another grim story. Our female labour force participation rate is only 22.6pc for the 15-64 age group, far below the global average of 52.6pc and even beneath the South Asian average of 25.2pc.

Role of social media in promoting climate awareness

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Climate change poses an urgent threat that requires informed public engagement and collective action. In the era of digital media, social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube have emerged as powerful tools for environmental communication. This study examines the role of social media in fostering climate awareness, influencing public opinion, and mobilizing climate action. Unlike traditional media, social platforms offer

interactive, participatory, and real-time communication channels, enabling individuals, organizations, and policymakers to reach wide and diverse audiences. The research highlights how digital campaigns, hashtags, visual storytelling, and influencer advocacy enhance awareness of issues such as global warming, deforestation, and sustainable practices. Special attention is given to youth-led movements like Fridays for Future, which demonstrate the potential of social media to amplify climate discourse globally. The study also addresses challenges, including misinformation, digital divides, and performative activism, which may hinder effective

climate communication. Using qualitative content analysis and surveys, the research evaluates how exposure to social media impacts environmental knowledge, attitudes, and behavioral intentions. Findings indicate that social media significantly promotes climate awareness, particularly among youth, by fostering dialogue, community engagement, and civic participation. The study underscores the importance of strategic communication, media literacy, and policy support in achieving sustained environmental impact, offering insights for green journalism, media practitioners, and policymakers.

What can end the Iran war?

Abbas Nasir
As the Israel-US war on Iran is entering its second week, President Donald Trump demanded an "unconditional surrender" by the Persian Gulf Islamic Republic. But within hours, President Masoud Pezeshkian of the beleaguered nation retorted: they will take their dreams of Iranian people surrendering unconditionally to their grave. So what can influence the course of this war, including its end?
Apart from claims by the Israel-US coalition of decimating Iran's nuclear facilities and missile production

and launch capabilities, besides decapitating its leadership and destroying its command and control systems, and equally defiant statements by Iran about its own military might, evidence is in short supply about how the war is going.
Given how Iran is being carpet-bombed and how missiles are slamming into various parts of the country, it is not difficult to say that the Israel-US coalition controls the skies over most of the country, with the latter's air/missile defences knocked out. But, at the same time, Iran continues to launch both drones and missiles at targets in the

apartheid state itself and at US military facilities across the Gulf. The decapitation seems to have left intact and functioning Iran's 12 autonomous military-aerospace commands.
In terms of assessment, American analysts are split into two camps. The first group says that the war is not going America's way and that one major indication of this is the number of direct hits that US assets, most notably THAAD and Patriot radars and batteries, have taken, exposing or making vulnerable, for example, Gulf allies and the Zionist apartheid state itself.
Courtesy Dawn

Can a hard state deliver soft governance?

Fahd Husain
We have two wars on two borders, a crippling petrol price hike, enhanced electricity charges, fresh solar burden on consumers, and repeated warnings that things will get worse before they get better. If they ever do. In the meantime, what is the government doing to share the people's burden? It's a good question, but a silly one. The governments are, among other things, buying private jets, luxurious SUVs, and a fleet of cars for elected and non-elected officials. They are also doing zip, zilch, and zero to even pretend to apply hard measures on themselves. The government's tone-deaf approach to our citizens' plight is — to put it mildly — callous to the extreme. Pakistanis are angry, cynical and disillusioned. They have a right to be. The current context is obvious. A 55-rupee increase in petrol price per litre announced Friday night will burn a massive hole in people's monthly budgets. It will fuel inflation and will have a devastating impact on the lives of the most economically vulnerable segments of our society. The federal government trotted out its ministers to explain to a wary public that they had no choice but to go this route; that the oil supply disruption in the Gulf war had elevated the price per barrel beyond 90 dollars; and that the government would scale back petrol prices as soon as international rates came down. This explanation is, from the official point of view, expected to placate public opinion. It is also expected to absolve the government of responsibility for the petrol price bomb. It does neither. It is not hard to figure out why. Beyond the mathematics of fuel charges, adjustments and levies; beyond the timing of oil imports, tanker dockings and prevalent rates; and beyond the acrimonious debate about energy policies, short-term planning and incompetence of bureaucrats — beyond all this lies the core of the problem: the government's inability to signal through its words and actions that in times of peril, it will sink and swim with the people.
Courtesy Tribune

Parliamentarians call for Muslim countries' unity to face regional challenges, assert Pakistan's immediate response capability



PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentarians on Sunday called for solidarity among Muslim nations and proactive measures, cautioning that any conflict would undermine regional economies and aid opponents, while reaffirming Pakistan's readiness to respond decisively and the strength of its foreign policy.

While speaking exclusively with a local news channel, MNAs from multiple political parties voiced confi-

dence in Pakistan's ability to respond decisively to any threat, praised the government's strong foreign policy and strengthened ties with neighboring countries and called for unity to protect the nation's sovereignty and interests. Dr. Shahida Rehmani, Member of the National Assembly, stated that Pakistan is fully prepared with contingency plans to address regional challenges, emphasizing the country's strengthened diplomatic relations and lauding the strategic

policies of the Prime Minister, President and Field Marshal Asim Munir, while affirming Pakistan's capability to safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

MQM MNA Syed Hafeezuddin also stated that Islamic countries need to understand the importance of standing together on a single platform, demonstrating unity to defend Islam and their nations, warning that failure to do so would allow adversaries to benefit, with potentially dangerous consequences if the conflict continues. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, MNA, further highlighted that the conflict could negatively impact the economy, weaken the Pakistani rupee and reduce remittances from overseas Pakistanis, stressing that maintaining national unity is crucial to protect the country's financial stability and prevent the economic fallout of war. He appreciated Pakistan's robust and well-coordinated ability to defend its land and sovereignty.

Empowering Women Through Education Key to National Progress: Wajiha

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training Wajiha Qamar said that empowering women through education is essential for building a progressive, inclusive and prosperous Pakistan. In her message on International Women's Day, the minister paid tribute to the courage, resilience and achievements of women in all spheres of life, including education, science, leadership and community development.

She said women play a vital role in shaping the future of the country and strengthening the foundations of society. "When women are empowered through quality education and equal opportunities, they become powerful agents of change and progress," she adds.

Wajiha Qamar emphasized that the government remains committed to ensuring equitable access to quality education for girls across the country, adding that investing in girls' education is key to achieving sustainable development and social progress.

"Providing a safe, inclusive and enabling environment for girls to learn and grow remains a top priority of the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training", she added. The minister urged all stakeholders, including parents, teachers and communities.

Three petrol shipments expected tomorrow: Petroleum Minister

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Three petroleum shipments are expected to reach Pakistan by tomorrow, Petroleum Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik informed a briefing called to discuss rising global oil prices and fuel reserves amid the widening Middle East conflict on Sunday.

The meeting attended by Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb and Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah comes a day after Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif directed the finance and petroleum ministers to work with provincial governments on a strategy to conserve and ensure uninterrupted supply of petroleum products amid fuel shortage concerns sparked by the Israel-Iran war.

The federal government delegation offered a detailed briefing to the Sindh CM on the recent price hike and fuel reserves, according to a statement issued by CM House.

Finance Minister Aurangzeb told the meeting that Pakistan's monthly oil import

bill could increase to \$600 million in the backdrop of the conflict, adding that the government is continuously monitoring global energy markets and preparing alternative plans to deal with the financial impact of rising oil prices. Additionally, crude prices could rise to \$120 a barrel if the conflict escalates further. Diplomatic contacts are ongoing with Saudi Arabia, Oman and the United Arab Emirates for alternative fuel supplies, the delegation said, noting that efforts are underway to ensure alternate fuel supply routes other than the Strait of Hormuz. Due to Qatar declaring force majeure, LNG supply disruptions are also anticipated, the petroleum minister added. Fuel-saving measures are necessary so that existing reserves last longer, Malik asserted. Additionally, he said, Pakistan would request the International Monetary Fund for relief in the petroleum levy. The federal and provincial governments decided to increase coordination to prevent hoarding at petrol pumps, with Aurangzeb briefing the meeting on a joint dashboard.



ISLAMABAD: Petroleum Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik informed a briefing called to discuss rising global oil prices and fuel reserves amid the widening Middle East conflict on Sunday.

President Zardari commends security forces for eliminating FAK's terrorists in KP

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari, Sunday, commended the security forces for eliminating 13 terrorists of Indian proxy Fitna al Khwarij during different operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

The president lauded the professional capabilities of the security forces manifested during different operations in Bajaur, Bannu, Dera Ismail Khan, Khyber and South Waziristan districts, President Secretariat Media Wing said in a press release.

The president underlined that operations against Indian backed Fitna al Khwarij terrorists were significant for securing peace in the country. President Zardari commends security forces for eliminating FAK's terrorists in KP.

Meanwhile President Asif Ali Zardari, Sunday, expressed sorrow over the death of two Pakistani nationals in the United Arab Emirates due to missile debris.

He conveyed condolences to the bereaved families and urged restraint.

Citizens praise CM Punjab for bringing festive Ramazan decorations to major cities

PEAK POINT



ISLAMABAD: Citizens hailed the Punjab Chief Minister's initiative to illuminate cities during Ramazan, as extensive government-led decorations were carried out under the CM's instructions, with electric lights, lanterns and star-shaped ornaments adorning major cities including Vehari and Shahkot, creating a vibrant atmosphere for citizens during holy month. Speaking to PTV News, Chief Whip of the Punjab Assembly, Rana Muhammad Arshad, lauded the Chief Minister's initiative, noting that the Ramazan decorations have brought remarkable splendor and joy to the public. A resident of Shahkot expressed delight, emphasizing that seeing the city

adorned for the first time has infused the community with a profound sense of festivity and warmth. A shopkeeper in the area added that the vibrant displays have boosted local commerce and created a lively atmosphere throughout the holy month.

Meanwhile, a citizen from Vehari remarked that the illuminated streets and thoughtful arrangements have strengthened communal spirit and instilled pride among residents. Another merchant highlighted.

Special traffic plan enforced in inner city ahead of Eid

ABDUS SALAM BAITAB



BANNU: In view of increased shopping during Ramadan and ahead of Eid, a special traffic plan has been enforced in the inner city of Bannu. SP Traffic Ehsamuddin Khan and Assistant Commissioner Allah Nawaz Khan, along with members of the traders' community and transporters, announced the plan during a press briefing at the Bannu Press Club. They stated that due to the holy month of Ramadan and the upcoming Eid-ul-Fitr, the markets inside Bannu city witness a significant increase in shoppers, which may disrupt the smooth flow of traffic. To facilitate the public and ensure better

traffic management, the Traffic Warden Police Bannu have prepared a comprehensive traffic plan. According to the plan, the entry of Qingqi rickshaws, Zaranj vehicles, motorcars, and other vehicles into the inner city markets of Bannu has been temporarily restricted in order to provide convenience for pedestrians and shoppers, which may prevent traffic congestion in the markets. In this regard.

Kashmir's women suffer decades of horror: 22,991 widowed, 11,275 molested: Report

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: As the world observes International Women's Day on Sunday (today), Kashmiri women continue to endure relentless pain and suffering under the actions of Indian troops and police in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK).

A report of the Research Section of the Kashmir Media Service, issued on the occasion of International Women's Day, states that Kashmiri women in Indian illegally

occupied Jammu and Kashmir continue to face hardships and victimization at the hands of Indian forces, including the army, Border Security Force, Central Reserve Police Force, Special Operations Group and police.

The report also recalls that during the 1947 Jammu massacres, widespread violence was committed against the Muslim population.

It states that thousands of Muslim women were abducted and subjected to brutal treatment in areas



such as Jammu, Rajouri, Poonch and Kathua, describing the incidents as part of a systematic campaign carried out during that turbulent period under the rule of Maharaja Hari Singh.

Since 1988 popular uprising in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK), scholars and human rights organizations have documented serious allegations of sex-

ual violence by Indian state forces, including the Indian Army, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and Border Security Force (BSF). Reports have highlighted that such incidents occurred during military operations, reflecting the deep human rights concerns surrounding the conflict in the territory.

After 1989, various reports alleged that Kashmiri civilians faced widespread abuses, including torture, killings and destruction of homes and

businesses. A 1993 Human Rights Watch report stated that rape was used by Indian forces as a method of retaliation against civilians, with many cases reportedly occurring during cordon-and-search operations carried out in different areas of the region.

In October 1992, representatives from the Asia Watch group and Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) traveled to Kashmir to document rape and other human rights abuses and violations.